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PHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTERS OF POLISH VETERINARY FACULTIES

Prof-Dr Boleslaw Gutowski

Polish science is still in the process of rebuilding and developing its research centers, and reorganizing research to conform with the new social order. Scientific methods and discoveries serve the needs of the nation. Scientific research, including that of the veterinary section, is a part of the Six-Year Plan to create a sound economic basis for society.

The Physiology Group of the Veterinary Medicine Subsection of the Polish Scientific Congress has submitted physiology and physiological chemistry in the veterinary faculties. The progress of the research centers has not been satisfactory. In seeking the reasons for this situation, the physiology group examined the status of the physiology and physiological chemistry research centers with regard to buildings, laboratory equipment, supply of instruments, and personnel.

Present conditions at the physiology and physiological chemistry research centers of the three faculties in Poland are as follows:

Wroclaw

The department of physiology of domestic animals does not yet occupy its own buildings. Instruction in physiology is held in the Academy of Medicine. The physiological chemistry department has not yet been set up, but is in its initial phase of organization and has two rooms at its disposal. Buildings for both physiology and physiological chemistry centers are under construction.

Personnel: The physiology department is not fully staffed. Prof A. Klisiecki is acting head of the department, aided by one senior assistant, two junior assistants, and one laboratory assistant attached to the physiology department of the Veterinary Faculty. Professor Klisiecki is known for his work in blood circulation and the physiology of the kidneys.

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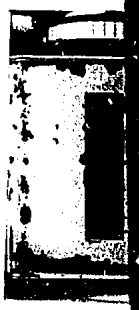

Dr Franciszek Wandokanty is organizing a research center of physiological chemistry. At the same time, he is preparing quarters for the center. Buildings, personnel, and equipment in both research centers are in a stage of development which is inadequate for scientific research.

In connection with animal nutrition, the Botanical and Fodder Research Center (Zaklad Botaniki i Badania Pasz) is part of the Physiology Group. This center occupies two rooms and is adequately equipped. The manager of the center is the experienced Prof-Dr Bronislaw Janowski. He is aided by one senior assistant. Laboratory experiments at the center are adapted to the needs of veterinary medicine: research on the properties and geographical distribution of fodder plants, poisonous plants, and medicinal plants in Poland.

Warsaw

The Physiology Research Center (Zaklad Fizjologii) and the Physiological Chemistry Research Center (Zaklad Chemii Fizjologicznej) have had inadequate facilities for laboratory work since they were removed from the municipal hospital at the end of 1948. Water and gas installations are still lacking in some rooms. In addition, the laboratories require immediate repair of windows and stoves. The Physiology Research Center does not have proper quarters for large experimental animals.

Personnel: The head of the physiology department is Prof-Dr B. Gutowski. He is assisted by four students of the Veterinary Faculty. The head of the physiological chemistry department is Dr Stanislaw Nyrek (docent), assistant professor. The department has three graduate assistants, three undergraduate assistants, and two porters.

Scientific research work: The foundation has been laid for research in scientific literature. However, only at the end of 1948 were the physiology and physiological chemistry departments assigned space. During the organizational period, the requirements for teaching received primary consideration.

Experimental work: Work is done on the nervous system, endocrine glands, sex hormones, the digestive system, and the hematopoietic system.

The Physiological Chemistry Research Center is working on enzymes, the metabolism of tuberculosis and anthrax bacilli, and the biochemistry of viruses.

Lublin

Construction is being accelerated on a new building for the Physiology Research Center and the Physiological Chemistry Research Center. The latter has already moved into the new structure. The research centers do not have adequate apparatus. The manager of the Physiology Research Center is Dr Stanislaw Dluzewski, visiting professor. The research staff consists of one graduate assistant and four undergraduate assistants. Experiments are being conducted on the following problems: blood changes caused by novocaine and vitamin K, and the effect of CO_2 in anabiosis.

The General and Physiological Chemistry Research Center (Zaklad Chemii Ogolnej i Fizjologicznej) is managed by Dr Jozef Skulmowski (docent), a substitute professor. The staff consists of one senior assistant and a number of junior assistants. This research center is in the organizational stage and does not yet possess complicated apparatus. It conducts research on the alkaline content in the blood of horses in relation to the amount of work they do, and it also analyzes the amino acid content of fodder.

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The majority of the centers for physiological research on domestic animals in other countries are older and more advanced in achievement. With respect to teaching, there is no significant difference between the physiological research centers of Poland and other countries.

High-level training is one of the most important elements in the realization of the Six-Year Plan. The destruction of scientific research centers during the war resulted in a shortage of graduate veterinarians for scientific institutes. Research centers had to fall back on students in veterinary faculties. Only when the veterinary faculties have turned out graduate doctors will the research centers be staffed with scientific research assistants who give full time to research and teaching. For instance, the Veterinary Faculty of Wroclaw University will not graduate a normal class of veterinarians until late 1951.

In addition to problems already being investigated in the research centers, the need may arise for research on productivity in animal breeding, nutrition in relation to growth and fattening, production of milk, eggs, and wool, and draft power. Studies in basal metabolism are needed to calculate food requirements for production (for example, eggs) or for draft work.

The development of research in animal physiology must be based on the following economic tasks: increased livestock production, increased consumption of food products of animal origin, and the production of high-grade animal food products. The following steps must be taken to realize these needs:

1. Improvement and expansion of research centers for physiology, physiological chemistry, and animal nutrition

2. Training of research assistants

3. Diversified industrial production of scientific apparatus and chemicals

4. Expediting of imports of foreign apparatus and chemicals

5. Streamlining of procurement procedures on imported apparatus and chemicals

6. Foreign-language requirements (two or three) for all research assistants

7. Recruitment of candidates

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